

A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMPN 38 PEKANBARU IN COMPREHENDING RECOUNT TEXTS

Septi Emi Mutia¹, Fadly Azhar², Fakhri Ras³

Email :septiemimutia@gmail.com, fadlyazhar@yahoo.com, fakhriras@yahoo.com

Cp : 085263402273

*Student of English Study Program
Language and Arts Department
Faculty of Teacher Training and Education
Universitas Riau*

Abstract : *This descriptive research was aimed to find out the ability of the second year students of SMPN 38 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts. The research data were collected from March to April 2017. The subject of this research was class VIII-1 which consisted of 30 students. The data were collected by administering a test to the students in the form of multiple choice test. Based on the data analysis it was found out that the highest score obtained by the students was in finding social function with the mean score of 78.66 which categorized into good level, and the lowest score was in finding meaning of vocabulary with the mean score of 50.33 which categorized into mediocre level. As a conclusion, the ability of the second year students in reading comprehension was in the good level with the mean score of 65.3. The implication of the finding is that the students should increase their comprehension in order to reach excellent level.*

Keywords: *Reading Ability, Comprehending Recount Texts.*

SEBUAH PENELITIAN MENGENAI KEMAMPUAN SISWA KELAS 8 SMPN 38 PEKANBARU DALAM MEMAHAMI TEKS RECOUNT

Septi Emi Mutia¹, Fadly Azhar², Fakhri Ras³

Email :septiemimutia@gmail.com, fadlyazhar@yahoo.com, fakhriras@yahoo.com

Cp : 085263402273

Mahasiswa Program Studi Bahasa Inggris

Jurusan Bahasa dan Seni

Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan

Universitas Riau

Abstrak: Penelitian deskriptif ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa kelas delapan SMPN 38 Pekanbaru dalam memahami teks recount. Data penelitian dikumpulkan di bulan Maret hingga April tahun 2017. Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah siswa kelas VIII-1 yang terdiri dari 30 siswa. Data dikumpulkan dengan memberikan test kepada siswa dalam bentuk pilihan ganda. Hasil penelitian yang diperoleh adalah nilai tertinggi diperoleh siswa dalam memahami fungsi teks berada pada level bagus dengan nilai rata-rata 78.66. Sedangkan nilai terendah diperoleh siswa dalam memahami makna kata-kata sulit dengan nilai 50.33 yang masuk dalam level sedang. Dapat disimpulkan kemampuan siswa dalam pemahaman membaca teks recount secara keseluruhan berada pada level baik dengan nilai rata-rata 65.3. Implikasi dari hasil menunjukkan bahwa siswa harus meningkatkan pemahaman mereka agar mencapai level unggul.

Kata Kunci: *Kemampuan Membaca, Pemahaman Teks Recount.*

INTRODUCTION

The four skills that the students should master in learning English are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Reading is one of the four skill that is essential to learn. Through reading, students can widen their knowledge, develop critical thinking and enables them to expand their knowledge, and also to have pleasure. The main goal of reading is to gain comprehension or ability to find the meaning of what they have read and answer the questions based on the reading text.

In order to understand the text, comprehension is needed. Armbruster (2000) define that comprehension is the reason for reading. If readers can read the words but do not understand what they are reading, they are not really reading. In reading comprehension, student should know the idea or subject in order to understand the text easily.

One of the text types that must be learned by the students of SMN 38 Pekanbaru is recount text. According to Sudarwati and Grace (2007) recount tell the reader what happened in the past thought a sequence of events. Moreover Wardiman et. al. (2008) stated that recount text is a text that telling about one story, action or activity. The purpose of recount text is to retell or entertain the readers about an event.

Based on researcher's observation, some students of the second year of the SMPN 38 Pekanbaru cannot comprehend recount text well. Some of the student stated that the recount text is quite easy, but the rest also stated that the text is hard to comprehend and it is a quite new for them.

Furthermore, recount text is included in national examination question and in order the student can answer the questions correctly, students have to be able to comprehend the text. Therefore, by conducting this research to find out the ability of the second year students in comprehending recount text, the teachers can have the scientific data. So, the teachers can have much time to preparing and doing appropriate teaching to improve their students' ability in comprehending recount text in order that students are ready to answer the questions in national examination.

The research question of this research was as in the following: how is the ability of the second year students of SMPN 38 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted at SMPN 38 Pekanbaru. It was done from March to April 2017. This research is a descriptive research that describes the students' ability in reading comprehension. According to Gay (1987) states that descriptive study is useful for investigating a variety of educational problems.

The population of this research were the second year students of SMPN 38 Pekanbaru in academic year 2016-2017. The number of the population were 115 students consist of four classes.

Due to a big number of the population, the sample should be taken. The number of the population was not homogeneous in various factor, it is not suitable to take random sample. Therefore, cluster random sampling is suitable to determine the population. It found that VIII-1 class with 30 students as sample of the research.

The data used in this research was quantitative data. The instrument that used in this research were multiple choice test consists of 40 items.

Furthermore, the level of the student's score classified into four levels of mastery. The classification can be seen in this following table.

Table 1. The Classification of Students' Score

No.	Scores	Category
1.	80 – 100	Excellent
2.	60 – 79	Good
3.	50 – 59	Mediocre
4.	0 – 49	Poor

(Adapted Harris 1974)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In conducting this research, the researcher collected the data by giving a multiple choices test to the students. Before the test was given to the sample class, the test was given to the try out class to know the validity of the test. The material of the test was about comprehending recount texts.

Findings

The result of this research was presented by showing the percentage of the students scores and the classification scores of the students' ability in comprehending recount texts. The data was analyzed based on students' score in terms of seven components. They were finding the main idea, finding factual information in events, finding factual information in re-orientation, finding meaning of vocabulary, finding reference, finding inference and finding social function of recount texts.

Table 2. The Students' Ability in Comprehending Recount Texts

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	4	13%	Excellent	65.3
2	60 -79	17	57%	Good	
3	50 – 59	9	30%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	0	0%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

The table shows that the successful students (excellent and good) was 70%. Those data inform that the students were capable to comprehend the test and have good ability almost in the seven components, except finding meaning of vocabulary. It means that

read the students should read English books and remember the English vocabularies to know the meaning of the English words.

Table 3. Students' Ability in Finding Main Idea

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	17	57%	Excellent	74.00
2	60 -79	10	33%	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	3	10%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

The table above indicates that the score for finding main ideas is varied. It shows that 17 students (57%) are in excellent level, 10 students (33%) are in good level, 0 students (0%) are in poor level, and 3 students are in poor level. The students' mean score for finding main idea is 74.00. It can be concluded that the students' ability in term of finding main ideas is in good level.

Table 4. Students' Ability in Finding Factual Information in Events

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	17	57%	Excellent	69.33
2	60 -79	10	33%	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	3	10%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

The table 4 above shows that the students' ability in finding factual information in events tends to concentrate to one ability level. It indicates that 10 students (33%) are in good level, 3 students (10%) are in poor level, 0 students (0%) are in mediocre level. Meanwhile 17 students (57%) out of 30 samples are in excellent level. After calculating the mean score, the researcher finds out that the students' mean in finding factual information in events is 69.33 and is in good level.

Table 5. Students' Ability in Finding Factual Information in Re-Orientation

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	10	33%	Excellent	60.66
2	60 -79	12	40%	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	8	27%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

The table 5 shows that 10 students (33%) are in excellent level, 0 students (0%) are in mediocre level, and 8 students (27%) are in poor level. Moreover, 12 students (40%) are in good level. The mean score of the students in finding factual information in re-orientation is 60.66. It can be concluded that the students' ability in finding factual information in re-orientation aspect is in good level.

Table 6. Students' Ability in Finding Meaning of Vocabulary

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	4	13%	Excellent	50.33
2	60 -79	8	27%	Good	
3	50 – 59	6	20%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	12	40%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

Table 6 shows that 4 students (13%) are in excellent level, 8 students (27%) are in good level, 6 students (20%) are in mediocre level, and 12 students (40%) are in poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding meaning of vocabulary is 50.33. It can be concluded that the students' ability in finding meaning of vocabulary aspect is in mediocre level.

Table 7. Students' Ability in Finding Reference

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	18	60%	Excellent	76.00
2	60 -79	9	30%	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	3	10%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

Table 7 shows that the students' score in finding reference also lean towards one level ability. The greatest percentage goes to excellent level which has 60% of 18 students out of 30. The second bigger percentage is good level which has 9 students (30%). Then, 3 students (10%) are in average level and 0 students (0%) are in mediocre level. The mean score of the students for finding reference is 76.00 or is in good level.

Table 8. Students' Ability in Finding Inference

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	7	23%	Excellent	60.00
2	60 -79	16	54%	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	7	23%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

Table 8 indicated that the students ability in finding inference were in different level. There are 7 students (23%) are in excellent level, 16 students (54%) in good level, 0 students (0%) are in mediocre level, and 7 students (23%) are in poor level. The researcher finds out that the students' mean score in finding inference is 60.00 which in good level.

Table 9. Students' Ability in Finding Social Function

No	Range Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Ability	Mean Score
1	80 – 100	22	73%	Excellent	78.66
2	60 -79	5	17%	Good	
3	50 – 59	0	0%	Mediocre	
4	0 – 49	3	10%	Poor	
Total		30	100%		

From the table above, it can be seen that out of 30 students who took the test, there are 22 students (73%) are in excellent level, there are 5 students (17%) in good level, 0 students (0%) are in mediocre level, and 3 students (10%) are in poor level. The mean score of the students in finding social function is 78.6 and is in good level.

Discussions

Based on the findings and the presentation of the data, the research found out that the ability of the second year students of SMPN 38 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts were in good level (65.3). It was found out that out of 30 students, 4

students (13%) in excellent level, 17 students (57%) in good level, 9 students (30%) in mediocre level and no students (0%) in poor level.

From all the data, the result of this study answer the research question; how is the ability of the second year students of SMPN 38 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the data description above, the researcher draws a conclusion. That is the ability of the second year students of SMPN 38 Pekanbaru in comprehending recount texts was in good level with the mean score 65.3.

Concerning the conclusion, there are several recommendations that useful for teaching and learning English. Firstly, English teachers should devote extra time to the students in giving explanation and exercises about comprehending reading texts, especially recount text. The teacher should be taken some efforts to develop students' motivation and encourage them to practice in reading comprehension. Secondly, the students should increase their comprehension in order to get deep understanding of recount text by doing more exercise in reading comprehension. Thirdly, the next researcher could conduct different reading texts and reading comprehension to enrich the research finding especially in reading comprehension.

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